

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for setting a programmable feature of a motor vehicle comprising:
 - 2 providing an interactive site on a global computer network;
 - 3 establishing a connection with the interactive site;
 - 4 interactively setting a programmable feature of the motor vehicle at the interactive site;
 - 5
 - 6 providing a transfer device having an input port and an output port;
 - 7 transferring set-up data from the interactive site to the input port of the transfer device;
 - 8
 - 9 transferring the set-up data from the output port of the transfer device to the motor vehicle.
 - 10
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the input port of the transfer device comprises a serial bus connector.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the output port of the transfer device comprises the same serial bus connector.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the output port of the transfer device comprises a serial bus connector.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the input port of the transfer device comprises an
2 optical sensor.

1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein transferring set-up data from the interactive site to
2 the input port of the transfer device comprises modulating a portion of a display screen and
3 sensing such modulation in the transfer device.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the transfer device comprises a key for operating
2 the motor vehicle.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the programmable feature comprises a navigational
2 function.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the programmable feature comprises a
2 communication function.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein the programmable feature comprises an
2 entertainment function.

1 11. The method of claim 1 wherein the programmable feature comprises a climate
2 control function.

1 12. The method of claim 1 wherein the programmable feature comprises a control
2 having a user-assigned function.

1 13. The method of claim 12 wherein the interactive site includes a plurality of control
2 icons and further comprising dragging a selected icon onto a representation of a motor vehicle
3 control panel.

1 14. The method of claim 13 further comprising, after transferring the set-up data from
2 the output port of the transfer device to the motor vehicle, providing a control corresponding to
3 the selected icon on the motor vehicle control panel.

1 15. The method of claim 1 wherein the programmable feature comprises a display
2 having a user-assigned function.

1 16. The method of claim 12 wherein the interactive site includes a plurality of display
2 icons and further comprising dragging a selected icon onto a representation of a motor vehicle
3 display panel.

1 17. The method of claim 13 further comprising, after transferring the set-up data from
2 the output port of the transfer device to the motor vehicle, providing a display corresponding to
3 the selected icon on the motor vehicle display panel.

1 18. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 setting a programmable feature of the motor vehicle by user input to a control
3 within the motor vehicle;
4 transferring the user-input setting of the programmable feature from the motor
5 vehicle to the transfer device;
6 transferring the user-input setting of the programmable feature from the transfer
7 device to the interactive site.

1 19. A method for setting a programmable feature of a motor vehicle comprising:
2 providing an interactive computer program with a graphical user interface
3 depicting the programmable features of the motor vehicle;
4 setting the programmable feature of the motor vehicle using the interactive
5 computer program with a user's computer;
6 providing a transfer device having an input port and an output port;
7 transferring set-up data from the user's computer to the input port of the transfer
8 device;
9 transferring the set-up data from the output port of the transfer device to the
10 motor vehicle.

1 20. The method of claim 19 wherein the input port of the transfer device comprises a
2 serial bus connector.

1 21. The method of claim 20 wherein the output port of the transfer device comprises
2 the same serial bus connector.

1 22. The method of claim 19 wherein the output port of the transfer device comprises
2 a serial bus connector.

1 23. The method of claim 19 wherein the input port of the transfer device comprises an
2 optical sensor.

1 24. The method of claim 23 wherein transferring set-up data from the interactive site
2 to the input port of the transfer device comprises modulating a portion of a display screen and
3 sensing such modulation in the transfer device.

1 25. The method of claim 19 wherein the transfer device comprises a key for operating
2 the motor vehicle.

1 26. The method of claim 19 wherein the programmable feature comprises a
2 navigational function.

1 27. The method of claim 19 wherein the programmable feature comprises a
2 communication function.

1 28. The method of claim 19 wherein the programmable feature comprises an
2 entertainment function.

1 29. The method of claim 19 wherein the programmable feature comprises a climate
2 control function.

1 30. The method of claim 19 wherein the programmable feature comprises a control
2 having a user-assigned function.

1 31. The method of claim 30 wherein the interactive site includes a plurality of control
2 icons and further comprising dragging a selected icon onto a representation of a motor vehicle
3 control panel.

1 32. The method of claim 31 further comprising, after transferring the set-up data from
2 the output port of the transfer device to the motor vehicle, providing a control corresponding to
3 the selected icon on the motor vehicle control panel.

1 33. The method of claim 19 wherein the programmable feature comprises a display
2 having a user-assigned function.

1 34. The method of claim 30 wherein the interactive site includes a plurality of display
2 icons and further comprising dragging a selected icon onto a representation of a motor vehicle
3 display panel.

1 35. The method of claim 31 further comprising, after transferring the set-up data from
2 the output port of the transfer device to the motor vehicle, providing a display corresponding to
3 the selected icon on the motor vehicle display panel.

1 36. The method of claim 19 wherein the interactive computer program is hosted on a
2 global computer network.

1 37. The method of claim 19 further comprising:
2 setting a programmable feature of the motor vehicle by user input to a control
3 within the motor vehicle;
4 transferring the user-input setting of the programmable feature from the motor
5 vehicle to the transfer device;
6 transferring the user-input setting of the programmable feature from the transfer
7 device to the user's computer.

1 38. A method for setting a programmable feature of a motor vehicle comprising:
2 providing an interactive site on a global computer network;
3 establishing a connection with the interactive site;
4 interactively setting a programmable feature of the motor vehicle at the interactive
5 site;
6 transferring set-up data from the interactive site to the motor vehicle.

1 39. The method of claim 38 wherein the programmable feature comprises a
2 navigational function.

1 40. The method of claim 38 wherein the programmable feature comprises a
2 communication function.

1 41. The method of claim 38 wherein the programmable feature comprises an
2 entertainment function.

1 42. The method of claim 38 wherein the programmable feature comprises a climate
2 control function.

1 43. The method of claim 38 wherein the programmable feature comprises a control
2 having a user-assigned function.

1 44. The method of claim 43 wherein the interactive site includes a plurality of control
2 icons and further comprising dragging a selected icon onto a representation of a motor vehicle
3 control panel.

1 45. The method of claim 44 further comprising, after transferring the set-up data from
2 the interactive site to the motor vehicle, providing a control corresponding to the selected icon on
3 the motor vehicle control panel.

1 46. The method of claim 38 wherein the programmable feature comprises a display
2 having a user-assigned function.

1 47. The method of claim 43 wherein the interactive site includes a plurality of display
2 icons and further comprising dragging a selected icon onto a representation of a motor vehicle
3 display panel.

1 48. The method of claim 47 further comprising, after transferring the set-up data from
2 the interactive site to the motor vehicle, providing a display corresponding to the selected icon on
3 the motor vehicle display panel.

1 49. The method of claim 38 further comprising:
2 setting a programmable feature of the motor vehicle by user input to a control
3 within the motor vehicle;
4 transferring the user-input setting of the programmable feature from the motor
5 vehicle to the interactive site.

1 50. A system for setting a programmable feature of a motor vehicle comprising:
2 a motor vehicle having a programmable feature;
3 a transfer device provided in combination with the motor vehicle, the transfer
4 device having at least one communication port;
5 an interactive computer program with a graphical user interface depicting the
6 programmable feature of the motor vehicle;
7 wherein a user of the motor vehicle sets the programmable feature using the
8 interactive program on a user's computer, transfers set-up data for the programmable
9 feature from the user's computer to a transfer device and then transfers the set-up data
10 from the transfer device to the motor vehicle.

1 51. The system of claim 50 wherein the transfer device comprises a key for operating
2 the motor vehicle.

1 52. The system of claim 50 wherein the programmable feature comprises a
2 navigational function.

1 53. The system of claim 50 wherein the programmable feature comprises a
2 communication function.

1 54. The system of claim 50 wherein the programmable feature comprises an
2 entertainment function.

1 55. The system of claim 50 wherein the programmable feature comprises a climate
2 control function.

1 56. The system of claim 50 wherein the programmable feature comprises a control
2 having a user-assigned function.

1 57. The system of claim 56 wherein the graphical user interface includes a plurality of
2 control icons and wherein the user drags a selected icon onto a representation of a motor vehicle
3 control panel.

1 58. The system of claim 57 further comprising means within the motor vehicle for
2 providing a control corresponding to the user-selected icon on the motor vehicle control panel.

1 59. The system of claim 50 wherein the programmable feature comprises a display
2 having a user-assigned function.

1 60. The system of claim 56 wherein the graphical user interface includes a plurality of
2 display icons and wherein the user drags a selected icon onto a representation of a motor vehicle
3 display panel.

1 61. The system of claim 60 further comprising means within the motor vehicle for
2 providing a display corresponding to the user-selected icon on the motor vehicle display panel.